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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/734,153	12/15/2003	Donald James Milligan	200308989-1	2070

22879 7590 09/15/2009

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LINH THI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/15/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/734,153	Applicant(s) MILLIGAN ET AL.	
	Examiner LINH T. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-8, 10-22, and 24-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-8, 10-22, and 24-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-22, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda et al (US Patent Number 5574279) in view of Ried (US Patent Number 5856672).

In regards to claims 1 and 21, Ikeda et al discloses an electrostatic actuator and method for a contact probe storage device (Fig. 3B) comprising: a first electrode (Fig. 3A, element 3); a second electrode (Fig. 3A, element 7) supported in a predetermined spaced essentially parallel relationship with the first electrode (Fig. 3A-B, 7 is parallel with 3) by resilient members (Fig. 3, element 8); and a probe (Fig. 3 element 12) configured to engage a medium in which data indicative topographical features are formed (Column 4, lines 41-45), the probe being mounted on the second electrode so as to extend away from the first electrode (Fig. 3A-B, element 7 space apart 4 from the first electrode 3), wherein only one of the first and second electrodes is configured to have a voltage selectively applied thereto to attract the first and second electrodes

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toward one another and move the probe away from the medium (Column 4, lines 56-67); wherein the second electrode is supported by a plurality of flexible extension members (Fig. 3A, element 9). However, Ikeda et al does not disclose wherein a heater disposed on the second electrodes.

In the same field of endeavor, Ried discloses wherein a heater disposed on the second electrodes (Column 9, lines 33-57).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the electrostatic actuator of Ikeda et al to have a heater as suggested by Ried. The motivation for doing so would have been convert STM system into an AFM system.

In regards to claims 2 and 22, Ikeda does not but Ried discloses wherein a capacitance varies with the displacement of the probe with respect to the medium (Column 9, lines 33-42). The motivation is the same as claim 1 above.

In regards to claims 4 and 24, Ikeda discloses an electrostatic actuator, wherein a first pair of the flexible extensions are configured to apply a voltage to the second electrode (Column 4, lines 56-60 and Column 6, lines 48-53).

In regards to claims 5 and 25, Ikeda does not but Reid discloses an electrostatic actuator as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a heater wherein the heater is electrically isolated from the second electrode and electrically connected with a second

pair of the flexible extensions which are configured to supply electrical current to the heater (Fig. 1d, element 125 heater; Column 9, lines 43-67). The motivation is the same as claim 1 above.

In regards to claims 6 and 26, Ikeda discloses an electrostatic actuator as set forth in claim 3, wherein the flexible extension members are made of an electrically conductive material (Column 5, lines 63-67; silicon is a conductive metal).

In regards to claims 7 and 27, Ikeda discloses an electrostatic actuator and method, wherein the flexible extension members each have an electrically conductive portion (Column 5, lines 63-67).

In regards to claims 8 and 15, Ikeda et al discloses an electrostatic actuator arrangement for a contact probe storage device comprising: a probe (Fig. 11, element 54) configured to engage a medium in which data indicative topographical features are formed (It is inherent that marks will be in formed in form of bits on the medium); and linear acting electrostatic motor means for selectively drawing the probe out of engagement with the medium (Fig. 11, in z direction; Column 9, lines 8-40), the flexible support means for supporting the linear acting electrostatic motor (Figs. 3A, element 9). Ikeda et al does not but Ried discloses capacitor means for sensing displacement of a probe with respect to the medium which displacement is induced by engagement between the probe and a data indicative topographical feature (Fig. 3p-q; Column 16,

lines 18-39); a heater supported on the second electrode (Column 9, lines 43-57). The motivation is the same as claim 1 above.

In regards to claim 10, Ikeda et al discloses an electrostatic actuator, wherein a first electrode; and a second electrode supported in a predetermined spaced essentially parallel relationship with the first electrode (Fig. 3A-B) and the linear acting electrostatic motor means (column 9, lines 8-40). Ikeda et al does not but Reid discloses an actuator comprises of the capacitor means (Column 16, lines 18-39). The motivation is the same as claim 1 above.

In regards to claims 11 and 23, Ikeda discloses an electrostatic actuator, wherein the second electrode is supported by a plurality of flexible extension members (Fig. 3, element 9).

In regards to claim 12, Ikeda et al discloses an electrostatic actuator arrangement, wherein the flexible support means further comprise means for establishing an electrical connection with the second electrode (Fig. 3).

In regards to claim 13, Ikeda et al does not but Reid discloses an electrostatic actuator arrangement as set forth in claim 11, wherein the heater is electrically isolated from the second electrode and disposed proximate the probe (Fig. 1d). The motivation is the same as claim 1 above.

In regards to claim 16, Ikeda et al discloses a method as set forth in claim 15, further comprising: forming a probe which is supported on the second electrode and which is configured to engage a medium in which data indicative topographical features are formed; and forming spacers which support the medium in a predetermined spatial relationship with the probe (Fig. 3).

In regards to claim 17, Ikeda et al discloses a method as set forth in claim 15, comprising; using the flexures to support the second electrode in the predetermined spaced essentially parallel relationship with the first electrode (Fig. 3).

In regards to claim 18, Ikeda et al discloses a method as set forth in claim 17, further comprising forming the flexures to be electrically conductive or to have an electrically conductive portion (Column 5, lines 63-67).

In regards to claim 19, Ikeda et al discloses the flexures connected to the second electrode. However, Ikeda does not but Reid discloses forming a heater on the second electrode; electrically isolating the heater from the second electrode and configuring the heater to be electrically connected with the second pair of flexures (Fig. 1d). Reid electrode is Ikeda et al second electrode, therefore, it would have been obvious to place the heater of Reid on Ikeda et al second electrode. The motivation would be the same as claim 1 above.

In regards to claim 20, Ikeda et al discloses a method as set forth in claim 16, further comprising configuring the first and second electrodes to form a capacitor wherein the change in distance between the first and second electrodes is measurable and usable as a signal indicative of the probe having engaged a data indicative topographical feature on the medium (Column 9 and 10; shows that the probe is engage by tunneling since it is a STM system but with Reid AFM system the probe is engage by voltage creating capacitor).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-20 is withdrawn from allowance.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 9, filed 12/02/08, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-20 under Kurihara have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Reid.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LINH T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-5513. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00am-7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN

August 28, 2009

/Wayne Young/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2627